

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, ) CRIMINAL NO. 03-00248DAE  
Plaintiff, ) Honolulu, Hawaii  
vs. ) May 2, 2007  
SAMUEL K. KAAUWAI, III, ) 10:37 a.m.  
Defendant. ) MOTION TO WITHDRAW GUILTY  
PLEA BY SAMUEL M. KAAUWAI,  
III

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS  
BEFORE THE HONORABLE DAVID ALAN EZRA  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

For the Government: MARSHALL H. SILVERBERG, ESQ.  
Office of the United States Attorney  
PJKK Federal Building  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 6100  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

For the Defendant: PAMELA E. TAMASHIRO, ESQ.  
Law Office of Pamela E. Tamashiro  
Ocean View Center  
707 Richards Street, PH 7  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Official Court Cynthia Fazio, RMR, CRR  
Reporter: United States District Court  
P.O. Box 50131  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850

Proceedings recorded by machine shorthand, transcript produced  
with computer-aided transcription (CAT).

**EXHIBIT 3**

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# I N D E X

## GOVERNMENT'S WITNESSES:

Page No.

WILLIAM DOMINGO	
DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SILVERBERG.....	9
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MS. TAMASHIRO.....	12
REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. SILVERBERG.....	24

## DEFENDANT'S WITNESSES:

SAMUEL KAAUWAI, III	
DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. TAMASHIRO.....	26

# EXHIBITS

## GOVERNMENT'S:

13 & 14 were received in evidence.....	9
----------------------------------------	---

## DEFENDANT'S:

D was received in evidence.....	30
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1 WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2007 10:37 A.M.

2 THE CLERK: Calling Criminal Number 03-248DAE, United  
3 States of America versus defendant Samuel Kaauwai.

4 This case is called for a Motion to Withdraw Guilty  
5 Plea.

6 Counsel, please state your names for the record.

7 MR. SILVERBERG: Good morning, Your Honor. Marshall  
8 Silverberg on behalf of the United States. With me is Special  
9 Agent Ty Torco.

10 THE COURT: Okay.

11 MS. TAMASHIRO: And good morning, Your Honor.  
12 Mr. Samuel Kaauwai is present with counsel Pamela Tamashiro.

13 THE COURT: All right. Okay. Ready to proceed?

14 MR. SILVERBERG: Yes, we are, Your Honor. We're not  
15 exactly sure how the court wants to proceed. It is their  
16 motion and we do have -- I believe there will be three  
17 witnesses.

18 THE COURT: Three?

19 MR. SILVERBERG: Well, we were hoping to do some by  
20 stip, but it doesn't look possible at this point, so...

21 THE COURT: Who are the three witnesses?

22 MR. SILVERBERG: Special Agent Torco, who's sitting  
23 next to me; Attorney William --

24 THE COURT: Give me -- why don't you do this, it'll be  
25 a little easier: Why don't you give me a --

1 MR. SILVERBERG: A summary, a proffer?

2 THE COURT: Offer of proof. Yeah, proffer as to what  
3 they're going to be testifying.

4 MR. SILVERBERG: Okay. Along those lines, Your Honor,  
5 we have two additional exhibits. I've given them to  
6 Ms. Tamashiro. (Handing documents).

7 The first exhibit, 13, does not involve any testimony.  
8 One of the arguments that Ms. Tamashiro makes is that the two  
9 paragraphs in question, that is Paragraphs 20 and 21, are not  
10 part of the practice of the United States Attorney's Office,  
11 and that's simply not true.

12 I will make a representation to the court as an  
13 officer of this court that I printed this out from our criminal  
14 forms directory as an option in doing a plea agreement. And  
15 this is a standard provision in all of my plea agreements.  
16 Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Brady uses it, Assistant  
17 U.S. Attorney Bev Sameshima --

18 THE COURT: I've seen this provision before.

19 MR. SILVERBERG: Right.

20 THE COURT: Court takes judicial notice of the fact  
21 that this particular paragraph is not in every plea agreement,  
22 but it's certainly not unusual.

23 MR. SILVERBERG: Okay. Thank you, Your Honor.

24 And then as to the other exhibit, Exhibit 14, which  
25 are hand written notes, those were done by Agent Torco after

1 debriefing the defendant on October 24th, 2003, a week after he  
2 pleaded guilty. During the course of that debriefing the  
3 defendant admitted that he used the Beretta, that is the  
4 handgun in question in this case, on at least two instances,  
5 one involving a home invasion robbery which occurred before  
6 Christmas of 2002; and the other he actually fired the weapon  
7 involving a threat that was made inside of an apartment near  
8 the Food Pantry on March of 2003 in which the defendant fired  
9 one round to send a message to somebody in the apartment. He  
10 recovered the slug and the shell casing.

11 He also admitted during this debriefing that the  
12 person he obtained the gun from is an individual by -- Thomas  
13 Young. He further admitted that he uses the -- he, the  
14 defendant, uses the gun for protection and that Thomas -- that  
15 Thomas Young or someone else removed the serial number before  
16 he got the firearm.

17 The reason why we're offering this, Your Honor, is  
18 that Ms. Tamashiro in her papers say that the defendant has  
19 consistently maintained his innocence. That is, that he did  
20 not own or possess the gun in question. And what we would use  
21 Agent Torco's testimony is that a week after the defendant  
22 pleaded guilty not only did the defendant admit that he  
23 possessed the gun during the change of plea colloquy, but a  
24 week later when he was hoping to cooperate and get a downward  
25 departure motion, he admitted that he actually used the gun on

1 two occasions and he gave the identity of the person from whom  
2 he obtained the gun in the first place.

3 So when Ms. Tamashiro says the defendant has always  
4 maintained his innocence except for the time that he changed  
5 his plea, that simply is not true.

6 THE COURT: And how about Mr. Domingo?

7 MR. SILVERBERG: Mr. Domingo was the defendant's  
8 counsel during the change of plea colloquy. Ms. Tamashiro's  
9 papers say that Mr. Domingo coerced the defendant into pleading  
10 guilty, and Mr. Domingo would counter that by saying that's  
11 simply not true. He went over the options with him, including  
12 what motions they could file, he went over with him the  
13 possible sentencing guideline sentences if he went to trial and  
14 was found guilty versus pleading guilty, and his advice was to  
15 plead guilty and the defendant pleaded guilty without any  
16 coercion.

17 THE COURT: All right. You can be seated.

18 All right. Ms. Tamashiro, you've heard the proffer of  
19 the government. Do you wish to have the government call those  
20 witnesses and/or do you accept the proffer?

21 MS. TAMASHIRO: Judge, with respect to Agent Torco, I  
22 am willing to agree that that's what he would testify to if  
23 called.

24 THE COURT: Okay. You want to cross-examine him?

25 MS. TAMASHIRO: The only question I would ask would be

1 this -- that, you know, these notes were just turned over to  
2 the defense today. This is the first I've seen them.

3 THE COURT: Okay.

4 MS. TAMASHIRO: And so at the time that I wrote my  
5 motion or my reply, I did not have this debriefing statement.

6 THE COURT: No, but you had your client telling you  
7 things and that's --

8 MS. TAMASHIRO: Yes, I did.

9 THE COURT: And that was what you relied on. And  
10 that's all you can rely on, I mean, after all. But I don't  
11 think that it was -- first of all, this would not normally be  
12 required to be turned over at this stage in any event, but  
13 secondly, I think that it was turned over at the late date  
14 because that's when Mr. Silverberg received your client's  
15 assertions.

16 So I mean, so I gather that you do not wish to  
17 cross-examine him?

18 MS. TAMASHIRO: I can't think of -- no, I don't need  
19 to cross-examine him.

20 THE COURT: All right. What about Mr. Domingo, do you  
21 wish to cross-examine Mr. Domingo?

22 MS. TAMASHIRO: Yeah, I think I need to cross-examine  
23 Mr. Domingo.

24 THE COURT: All right. Why don't you call Mr.  
25 Domingo. There's no need to call the agent and I don't -- what

1 was the other -- who was the other witness?

2 MR. SILVERBERG: The third witness is Attorney Glenn  
3 Choy. I'm not really sure we need to call him. The only  
4 reason why I asked him to be here was to authenticate that the  
5 letter that is part of the record that we produced earlier in  
6 our memorandum, that is Exhibit 7, is a letter purportedly  
7 signed by Mr. Kaauwai in which he admits or states that he does  
8 not intend to seek to withdraw his guilty plea.

9 THE COURT: You don't need to put him on.

10 MR. SILVERBERG: All right.

11 THE COURT: All right. But why don't we call Mr.  
12 Domingo to the stand then. I have both parties' papers, so I  
13 know what the, you know, the defendant's arguments are. So why  
14 don't you call Mr. Domingo.

15 MR. SILVERBERG: Yes, Your Honor. We call Mr.  
16 Domingo.

17 THE COURT: And I will trust that you will keep this  
18 brief. I don't see any need for any extensive examination. I  
19 don't want to go any further with the attorney-client privilege  
20 waiver than we have to.

21 WILLIAM DOMINGO,  
22 called as a witness by the Government, having been first duly  
23 sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

24 THE CLERK: Please have a seat.

25 THE COURT: By the way, I'll receive Exhibit 14 and



1 Exhibit 13 in evidence.

2 (Government's Exhibits 13 & 14 were received in evidence.)

3 MR. SILVERBERG: Thank you, Your Honor.

4 DIRECT EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. SILVERBERG:

6 Q Can you state your name, please?

7 A William Domingo.

8 Q And how are you presently employed?

9 A I'm a solo practitioner doing defense work.

10 Q Okay. How long have you been an attorney?

11 A Since 1985.

12 Q Are you a member of the bar of the State of Hawaii?

13 A Yes, I am.

14 Q Was there a time when you were a member of the Public  
15 Defender's Office?

16 A Yes, I was.

17 Q During that time period did you represent someone by the  
18 name of Samuel Kaauwai?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And do you see him in the courtroom today?

21 A I do.

22 Q Okay. Is it the defendant at counsel table?

23 A Yeah, he's there with the blue shirt.

24 THE COURT: Court would note the identification of the  
25 defendant.

1 BY MR. SILVERBERG:

2 Q Okay. And were you representing Mr. Kaauwai on the day  
3 that he pleaded guilty in court?

4 A Yes.

5 Q Okay. Before he pleaded guilty, did you sit down and meet  
6 with him?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Okay. Do you recall generally the matters that you  
9 discussed?

10 A You want to go from the beginning of the case or right  
11 before we --

12 THE COURT: Just go right to the --

13 BY MR. SILVERBERG:

14 Q Yeah, right in terms of the change of plea decision. Did  
15 you have discussions with him before he decided to plead  
16 guilty?

17 A Yes, we did.

18 Q Okay. And the nature of those discussions?

19 A Well, defenses that he possibly had, any motions that he  
20 could file, possible penalties that he could face if he was  
21 found guilty by either trial or pled guilty, possibility of  
22 cooperation, what type of cooperation that he would have.  
23 Those types of things.

24 Q Okay. And was it your advice to him that he should plead  
25 guilty?

1 A Yes.

2 Q At that time what was your understanding as to whether or  
3 not he in fact was guilty of the charged offense?

4 A Well --

5 MS. TAMASHIRO: Objection. That's irrelevant.

6 MR. SILVERBERG: Well, she's making the argument he  
7 should be allowed to withdraw because he's always maintained  
8 his --

9 THE COURT: Overruled.

10 THE WITNESS: Yeah, well, prior to him pleading  
11 guilty, I'm not going to let anybody plead guilty if they don't  
12 admit to what. And so we go over that. There's a -- I believe  
13 there was a paragraph, it's usually Paragraph 8, which talks  
14 about the different facts that he needs to admit to in court.  
15 So we went over that and he admitted that he did possess that  
16 gun at that time.

17 BY MR. SILVERBERG:

18 Q Okay. So it was your understanding that the gun was the  
19 defendant's gun?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Okay. And did you coerce the defendant to pleading guilty  
22 in any way?

23 A No.

24 Q Okay. Did you twist his arm or anything of that nature?

25 A No.

1 Q Whose decision was it ultimately to plead guilty in this  
2 case?

3 A Mr. Kaauwai.

4 MR. SILVERBERG: I have nothing further, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: Okay. Cross?

6 CROSS-EXAMINATION

7 BY MS. TAMASHIRO:

8 Q Mr. Domingo, good morning.

9 A Good morning.

10 Q You know, do you recall going to a debriefing with  
11 Mr. Kaauwai and Agent Torco on or about October 24th, 2003?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And you heard the representations as to what happened  
14 there?

15 A Yes.

16 Q Do you -- I mean do you recall what happened with respect  
17 to the --

18 A Well, I don't have any personal recollections of  
19 everything that happened, but from what I heard, and I was  
20 there sitting, and that's pretty much what Mr. Kaauwai admitted  
21 to. You know, this is sometime after, I guess, the change of  
22 plea that --

23 THE COURT: When you say pretty much what he admitted  
24 to, how about --

25 THE WITNESS: Possession of the -- possession of the

1 Beretta.

2 THE COURT: He did admit to your recollection that he  
3 possessed the gun?

4 THE WITNESS: Yes, Your Honor.

5 BY MS. TAMASHIRO:

6 Q Okay. And just some other questions. Mr. Domingo, did  
7 you ever receive either a written or audiotape recording of  
8 Mr. Kaauwai's statement?

9 A No.

10 Q Okay. And -- but you do recall that in the police reports  
11 there was reference to a post-arrest statement?

12 A Yes, I do.

13 Q Okay. Did you ever request it from the prosecutor?

14 A I believe we have ongoing requests when I was at the  
15 Public Defender's Office, but none was turned over.

16 Q Okay. And so it would be correct to say that even prior  
17 to the change of plea you had never listened to Mr. Kaauwai's  
18 statement to the police immediately upon his arrest or a day  
19 after his arrest?

20 A That's correct.

21 Q Now, Mr. Domingo, I think the change of plea occurred on  
22 October 17th, the indictment was returned in May of the same  
23 year, 2003. So it looks like the change of plea came about --  
24 about 5 months after Mr. Kaauwai was indicted --

25 A I believe so.

1 Q -- does that sound about right?

2 You know, Mr. Kaauiwai has written a letter to Judge  
3 Ezra which is attached to my reply memo as Exhibit D. I'm just  
4 going to ask you some questions about --

5 A Okay.

6 Q -- you know, about what he says.

7 Mr. Kaauiwai complains that your only advice to him and  
8 instruction to him was that there are four witnesses against  
9 him, that he is a convicted felon, and if he doesn't plead  
10 guilty, the prosecutor is going to give him 15 to life. Is  
11 that the only advice that you gave Mr. Kaauiwai?

12 A We talked about the witnesses, we talked about who was  
13 going to testify and what kind of elements they needed to  
14 prove. We also talked about possible penalties if he's found  
15 guilty of this particular charge with his priors. And when  
16 you're talking 15 years, I was concerned that because he had a,  
17 I believe, a burglary and also either a terroristic threatening  
18 and also a Criminal Property Damage in the First Degree, that  
19 they could trigger lock him. So this whole time we talked  
20 about that being a possibility.

21 Q Okay.

22 A He also was being held on a probation revocation by the --  
23 by the State and he was there first and writted over to the  
24 feds. So our concern also was that he's not getting time for  
25 any of these things, too. But we talked about that, yeah.

1 Q Okay. Mr. Kaauwai complains that not once did you want to  
2 hear his version of what happened. Is that true?

3 A No, that's not true.

4 Q Okay. You are aware of what Mr. Kaauwai's defense to the  
5 case was or --

6 A Well, I think initially he was saying that it was not his  
7 gun and that was -- the bag belonged to Ms. Batara, I believe.

8 Q Mr. Kaauwai also complains that your only focus when you  
9 talked to him was to get him to plead guilty. Is that true?

10 A It's up to him as to whether or not he wants to go to  
11 trial or not. I was working at the Public Defender's Office at  
12 that point. We had the resources. If we wanted to go to  
13 trial, we could do that.

14 Q Now, Mr. Kaauwai says that with respect to the plea  
15 agreement that the only time you went over the plea agreement  
16 with him was down in the marshal's office on the day of the  
17 change of plea. Is that correct?

18 A I knew I went over with him that day also, but I believe I  
19 went over it when we went out to the prison at some point  
20 because I need to go over all the facts that we have and I  
21 don't usually just do a one day thing before he goes and pleads  
22 guilty. So we talked back and forth about different facts that  
23 were going to be within there, a cooperation clause, because he  
24 wanted to see if he can get either cooperation by speaking with  
25 the ATF or at that point he was bunkmates with Roy Frisbee who

1 was involved with some type big -- a big drug case and  
2 Mr. Kaauwai said that, you know, he was convincing Mr. Frisbee  
3 to plead and he was asking if he could get credit for that. So  
4 part of the cooperation would be through that. We spoke with  
5 Mr. Harrison who was Mr. Frisbee's attorney at that time and  
6 they gave us assurances they would try to help in any way. So  
7 we talked about all of those things which would be encompassed  
8 within a plea agreement.

9 Q Mr. Kaauwai says that he wrote you a letter, I'm not sure  
10 exactly when, about fingerprints and getting an independent or  
11 a -- well, let me ask you this: Did you ever tell Mr. Kaauwai  
12 that his thumb print was found on a hotel room key?

13 A I can't exactly remember all the facts, but we went over  
14 the police reports which I had there, whatever reports they had  
15 involved his particular case and what they found inside of his  
16 bag, but we went over all of that. And I remember talking  
17 about a fingerprint, yes.

18 Q You do remember talking about fingerprint --

19 A Yeah, I believe so, yeah.

20 Q Okay. At the time that you were talking with Mr. Kaauwai,  
21 were you aware of what his educational level was?

22 A I believe he -- I don't think he graduated from high  
23 school.

24 Q Were you aware of whether he could read or write?

25 A Yes, he could read and write.



1 Q He -- that was your understanding?

2 A Yeah. In fact, he seemed really intelligent to me because  
3 all the questions he was asking, all the things that he could  
4 plan out as far as what options he had to go.

5 Q Now, you -- I mean, because you didn't have a copy of  
6 Mr. Kaauwai's post-arrest statement to the police, you never  
7 filed a Motion to Suppress statement, correct?

8 A No, I believe -- I don't even know that there was a  
9 post-arrest statement, I don't -- I don't recall that. If we  
10 knew of, we probably would have requested it. Because all I  
11 know that he made some statements while he was arrested.

12 Wait, I'll take that back. Yeah, in his statement he  
13 talked about the gun belonging to -- or somebody else, that the  
14 bag was his, some -- I remember that, yes, from the -- from the  
15 police reports, yes.

16 Q Okay. But -- so no Motion to Suppress was filed to  
17 suppress his statement?

18 A No, I believe what I usually do is ask him were you  
19 threatened before you made the statement, and if there is any  
20 indication that there was anything regarding his education or  
21 any type of coercion, then I would follow-up on that. And this  
22 case, I don't believe there was anything there.

23 Q You had an opportunity to look at the photo --  
24 photographic lineup that the complaining witness was shown?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Did you -- did you ever file a Motion to Suppress the  
2 lineup because it was unduly suggestive?

3 A Now that I think back on it, I don't recall anything that  
4 stood out that would give me any cause to file anything like  
5 that, yeah.

6 Q And so with respect to the fingerprint, you never asked  
7 for some kind of expert to review the report that was -- that  
8 allegedly linked Mr. Kaauwai's fingerprints to an item in the  
9 backpack?

10 A No, we did not.

11 Q With respect to the plea agreement, Mr. Domingo,  
12 specifically Paragraphs 20 and 21. 20 is the one that says  
13 that he agrees -- basically he agrees not to withdraw his plea.  
14 Did you go over that particular provision with Mr. Kaauwai?

15 A I believe we went over everything and then -- those  
16 paragraphs are of concern because I believe Mr. Silverberg is  
17 the one that uses it at that point and part of the deal was  
18 that he wanted to do cooperation and, you know, we talked  
19 about, you know, the government, this is their plea agreement,  
20 this is something that you want to go through. If you want to  
21 go forward and complete your cooperation, then there shouldn't  
22 be any problem here; but if you should not, then these are the  
23 things you are agreeing to as far as any statement that you  
24 make will be used if you pull out.

25 Q Okay.

1 A We talked about that, yes.

2 Q So would it be correct to say, Mr. Domingo, though, that  
3 Paragraphs 20 and 21, they're not always included in plea  
4 agreements, correct?

5 A That's correct.

6 Q Did you ever try to negotiate with Mr. Silverberg deleting  
7 the -- those two provisions?

8 A Yes.

9 Q And what was the result of your negotiations?

10 A We -- I was not successful in trying to get that out  
11 because otherwise there wouldn't have been a plea agreement,  
12 there wouldn't be any chance for cooperation, and that's what  
13 Mr. Kaauwai wanted.

14 Q Now, after the change of plea there were, I believe, three  
15 continuances of the sentencing?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And if I can just refresh your memory. I guess the first  
18 one was because Mr. Kaauwai wanted to get his GED?

19 A Yes.

20 Q And as far as you know, that was a legitimate desire on  
21 his part that he did want to get his GED?

22 A Yes, I believe he was either in classes or waiting for  
23 C-base program or something like that.

24 Q Okay.

25 A And they had to wait for rotations to come around.

1 Q Okay. The next continuance was for the purpose, because  
2 apparently you had a conflict, you were going to be in trial  
3 in, I believe, Judge Mollway's courtroom and so sentencing was  
4 continued again; you remember that?

5 A I don't have a recollection, but I believe if I was in  
6 trial then I did the motion, yes.

7 Q Okay. What about the draft presentence report, Mr.  
8 Domingo, did you go over that with Mr. Kaauwai?

9 A I believe so, yes.

10 Q On August 8th, 2005, I believe, that's when you signed  
11 your declaration anyway about -- in support of your Motion to  
12 Withdraw as Counsel?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Okay. And in that particular -- in your declaration you  
15 noted that there was a conflict in the attorney-client  
16 relationship?

17 A Yes.

18 Q And that you stated that Mr. Kaauwai was unsatisfied with  
19 your representation and gave notice of his intention to  
20 withdraw his guilty plea and to go to trial?

21 A Yes.

22 Q And that's back in August 8th, 2005?

23 A I believe so, yes.

24 Q Okay. So -- so at least as of August 8th, 2005  
25 Mr. Kaauwai was saying that he wanted to withdraw his plea?

1 A I believe soon after, the day before either I saw him or  
2 some kind of communication got back to me, that's when I  
3 immediately filed it. But in the meantime he was asking to see  
4 if he could get watches back, which we did. He also wanted to  
5 see about getting back some \$1,500 which was found on him which  
6 the State had in connection with a robbery that was not brought  
7 against Mr. Kaauwai. So, during that whole process we were  
8 doing that in the meantime. And then the communication came to  
9 me either through him directly when I went to visit him that he  
10 was not satisfied with what I was doing at this point and  
11 wanted to go back and go to trial on everything now. So that's  
12 when I filed it.

13 Q Okay. Mr. Domingo, when did you leave the Public  
14 Defender's Office?

15 A The federal?

16 Q Yeah.

17 A Yes. January of 2005.

18 Q Mr. Kaauwai says that it's his best recollection that  
19 between the change of plea, except for the probation interview,  
20 that you never came out to see him, between then and the time  
21 that you moved to withdraw as counsel. Is --

22 A I don't recall having any purpose to see him except for  
23 when the presentence report comes out so we can go over that in  
24 preparation for sentencing. Unless he calls me to -- to get  
25 going, then I would do that. At that time I think I was

1 starting my practice from January, so he was one of the cases  
2 that the public defenders allowed me to take with me as far as  
3 his sentencing situation.

4 Q So --

5 A That may be true. Yes.

6 Q At the time that you filed your August 8, 2005  
7 declaration, though, I mean you did know that Mr. Kaauwai  
8 wanted to go -- withdraw his guilty plea?

9 A That's the reason because we had a conversation, I  
10 believe, and I said that I can't file this for you because at  
11 this point if I'm saying that I stood next to you and then when  
12 the judge asks me that, is this something that you recommended,  
13 I have to say yes. And then to say now that either if -- I  
14 don't know what he's going to allege, that I coerced him or  
15 anything else, then I cannot be the attorney doing the  
16 withdrawal. So, I told him usually standard practice is I  
17 withdraw from the case, we have another attorney come in and  
18 independently talk to you and see what the basis for a motion  
19 would be.

20 MS. TAMASHIRO: Your Honor, I'm sorry I didn't file a  
21 separate evidence or exhibit list, but I would ask the court  
22 take judicial notice of my exhibits and that I may refer to  
23 them and that they be --

24 THE COURT: Which ones are these?

25 MS. TAMASHIRO: I -- to the reply memo, A, B, C, D, E

1 F -- A through H. And in particular, I guess with respect to  
2 Mr. Domingo, Exhibit B is his motion for withdrawal of counsel  
3 and the August 8th, 2005 declaration that I'm referring to.  
4 It's part of the record and files, but --

5 THE COURT: Okay. Well, it's already in the record,  
6 isn't it?

7 MS. TAMASHIRO: Yes, it's a filing.

8 THE COURT: And this is Mr. Kaauwai's letter, you want  
9 me to --

10 MS. TAMASHIRO: I'm sorry, Exhibit B to the reply memo  
11 is Mr. Domingo's Motion to Withdraw as Counsel.

12 THE COURT: That's fine. It's -- I'll take judicial  
13 notice of it. It's in the record.

14 MS. TAMASHIRO: If I may just have a moment, Judge.

15 THE COURT: Yup.

16 (Counsel and client conferring.)

17 BY MS. TAMASHIRO:

18 Q Mr. Domingo, just a few more questions. If you know,  
19 during the period when you advised Mr. Kaauwai to plead guilty,  
20 do you know how many other clients you had at that time?

21 A Would only be a guess, but --

22 THE COURT: No, don't guess.

23 THE WITNESS: Yeah, you know, I was with the Public  
24 Defender's Office and usually about 25, 30 cases at the time.

25 BY MS. TAMASHIRO:

1 Q Would it be fair to say that you could have been  
2 overworked in working Mr. Kaauwai's case and that you coerced  
3 him to plead guilty so -- to eliminate some of your case load?

4 A No.

5 Q Is there anything different that you would have done in  
6 hindsight in looking at what you did in this particular case?

7 A As far as going about with the case?

8 Q Yes.

9 A I don't believe so.

10 MS. TAMASHIRO: I don't have any further questions,  
11 Judge.

12 THE COURT: Do you have anything for him, Mr.  
13 Silverberg?

14 MR. SILVERBERG: Just one question, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right.

16 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. SILVERBERG:

18 Q You mentioned the robbery, the State robbery charge, Mr.  
19 Domingo?

20 A Yes.

21 Q During the period when you sought those continuances, was  
22 Mr. Kaauwai concerned about being charged in the State court  
23 for those -- for the robbery?

24 A Yes, he was very much concerned with that. I consulted  
25 with his public defender William Bento to see where that was in



1 the State system. I also called up, I believe, the  
2 Prosecutor's Office to see whether or not anything was going to  
3 be brought there. And once, I believe, we got -- not really  
4 guarantees but assurances that if everything stayed in federal,  
5 that the -- probably the robbery would not be brought in. And  
6 also there may have been problems with, I believe, Yancy, who  
7 was the complainant in the case.

8 Q So as long as he stayed in federal court with the federal  
9 charges it was your understanding that he was not going to be  
10 charged in the state court for the robbery?

11 A Well, I didn't get any guarantees on that, but that's one  
12 thing that was mentioned to us.

13 Q And that -- did you convey that to Mr. Kaauwai?

14 A Yes.

15 MR. SILVERBERG: Okay. Nothing further.

16 THE COURT: All right. You can step down.

17 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 (Witness excused)

19 THE COURT: All right. Do you have any witnesses?

20 MS. TAMASHIRO: Let me just talk to Mr. Kaauwai for a  
21 minute.

22 (Counsel and client conferring.)

23 MS. TAMASHIRO: I'll call Mr. Kaauwai.

24 THE COURT: All right.

25 SAMUEL KAAUWAI, III,

1 the Defendant herein, called as a witness on his own behalf,  
2 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as  
3 follows:

4 THE CLERK: Please have a seat.

5 State your name for the record and spell your last  
6 name.

7 THE WITNESS: My name is Samuel Maila Kaauwai, III.  
8 My last name is spelled K-A-A-U-W-A-I.

9 DIRECT EXAMINATION

10 BY MS. TAMASHIRO:

11 Q Okay. Mr. Kaauwai, can you just tell the judge briefly  
12 how much education you've had?

13 A I went to school up to tenth grade. In between that I was  
14 going to, how you say, alternative school. I wasn't too good  
15 in class and stuff as education. I didn't have too much  
16 education.

17 Q At the time of this case back in October of 2003 how would  
18 you describe your ability to read and write?

19 A Like I explained to you, I could -- I can read, you know,  
20 so much, but as for spelling, I'm not too good at spelling.  
21 But I could understand certain things.

22 Q Okay. So are you better at reading English or writing  
23 English?

24 A Reading.

25 Q Okay. Do you have a hard time writing?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Okay. Now, you have attempted to get your GED, right?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And then can you just briefly describe what your efforts  
5 have been in that respect?

6 A After my plea agreement I thought it would be a good idea  
7 to try to show the judge that I have accomplished my education  
8 while in FDC. In the course of doing that I failed two times.  
9 I brought it to Mr. Domingo's attention that I wanted to take  
10 it again. But there's a rotation because pretrial guys ain't  
11 priority, sentenced people are.

12 Q In terms of attending GED classes?

13 A Yes. So I would have to wait until the rotation is  
14 available.

15 Q As a result of taking GED classes, though, has your  
16 ability to read and write gotten better?

17 A I can say yes, but, you know, to me to understand the  
18 federal law had made me look much more -- understand it little  
19 more with the education.

20 Q Okay. So did you receive a copy of the police reports in  
21 this case from Mr. Domingo?

22 A I got it through the mail, my discovery, if that's what  
23 you're saying.

24 Q Okay. Do you remember how many pages your discovery was?

25 A Jeez, I think it was like two telephone books put

1 together.

2 Q Did you bring it with you to court?

3 A Yes, ma'am. It's on the desk.

4 Q Okay. If I were to show you the last page would that  
5 refresh your memory about how many pages the discovery  
6 consisted of that you received from Mr. Domingo?

7 A Yes.

8 MS. TAMASHIRO: Judge, may I approach the witness?

9 THE COURT: (Nods head up and down).

10 MS. TAMASHIRO: And, Your Honor, may the record  
11 reflect that I'm holding a ream of -- or some papers that look  
12 to be approximately 2 inches in -- 2 inches.

13 BY MS. TAMASHIRO:

14 Q So, Mr. Kaauwai, can you take a look at that. And how  
15 many pages were in that discovery that you initially received?

16 A From zero -- from 01 to 438 pages.

17 Q Okay. Now, after receiving that -- your discovery, did  
18 you try and read through it?

19 A I was kind of shocked to have something this thick on a  
20 case. As going through it, I didn't understand what it was --  
21 a lot about it.

22 Q Why is that?

23 A To me it seemed like going quarter ways through it, it  
24 seems like lot of the stuff was the same thing over and over  
25 again. And I brought that attention to Mr. Domingo hoping he

1 could explain why is my discovery so thick like this and going  
2 quarter ways through it there's a lot of things that look the  
3 same to me.

4 Q In that discovery that you're holding up there, is there a  
5 transcript or any kind of writing about what -- of your  
6 statement to the police after your arrest?

7 A Well, since you're saying that, that was the first thing  
8 that I would -- I was looking for that I did not see as  
9 statement-wise in here.

10 Q Okay. Did you ever receive or listen to any audiotape of  
11 your statement to police?

12 A No.

13 Q You did give a statement to the police after your arrest?

14 A Yes, I did.

15 Q Mr. Kaauwai, I'm going to now -- you wrote a couple  
16 letters in support of your motion to withdraw; you remember  
17 that?

18 A Yes, ma'am.

19 Q Okay.

20 MS. TAMASHIRO: And, Your Honor, I'm referring to what  
21 has been attached to my reply brief as Exhibit D and it's a  
22 three-page -- three pages. May I approach the witness to have  
23 him --

24 THE COURT: Yes.

25 BY MS. TAMASHIRO:

1 Q Mr. Kaauwai, you recognize what the three pages are?

2 A Yes, ma'am, I do.

3 Q And what are they?

4 A They was letters to my attorney and Honorable Ezra to --  
5 concerning my -- my case.

6 Q Okay. And as far as, are the facts and circumstances  
7 contained in both those letters true and correct to the best of  
8 your information and belief, or your knowledge and belief?

9 A Yes, it is.

10 MS. TAMASHIRO: Your Honor, again, I'm sorry I don't  
11 have it as an exhibit, but I would ask the court to allow me  
12 maybe to supplement with some exhibits, what has been attached  
13 to my memo as Exhibit D.

14 THE COURT: He's identified that as his. So I'll  
15 receive it.

16 (Defendant's Exhibit D was received in evidence.)

17 MS. TAMASHIRO: Okay. Thank you, Judge.

18 BY MS. TAMASHIRO:

19 Q What about fingerprint analysis, I mean did -- well, let  
20 me -- in your letters, Mr. Kaauwai, you make some complaints  
21 against Mr. Domingo about his representation of you. Can you  
22 just kind of briefly highlight for the judge what -- what you  
23 said or your complaints?

24 A It was a letter concerning my finger -- my latent prints  
25 on certain items that was in the bag. It was brought to my

1 attention with another inmate that had a similar case saying  
2 that they should ask for an examination on your prints. And  
3 that's when I put together a letter writing it to Mr. Domingo  
4 because it would be better documenting it on a letter, I was  
5 told, saying that you showed and made effort on requesting to  
6 have your fingerprints analysis redone or checked through a  
7 private sector. So that's -- that's the letter that I wrote to  
8 Mr. Domingo. I gave a copy to Mr. Clayton Kimoto, he's  
9 supposed to have it in his -- in the files, and I have one, but  
10 it's not with me at this time.

11 Q All right. Did you feel like -- did Mr. Domingo do  
12 anything about the fingerprints?

13 A From what I was told from him is that my plea agreement,  
14 we had already pled guilty. There's nothing more for him to  
15 do. It wouldn't be, like, right for us to go through with that  
16 because I already pled guilty already.

17 Q You remember how much after you pled guilty that you sent  
18 him this letter about the fingerprints?

19 A About 4 months after that.

20 Q Okay. So you pled guilty in October?

21 A Somewhere in February.

22 Q About February of 2004?

23 A Yes, ma'am.

24 Q What other -- I mean you think -- you've told -- you've  
25 said that you believe Mr. Domingo didn't do a good job for you,

1 was ineffective. Can you tell the judge why you say that?

2 A I didn't have no knowledge of the federal law, federal  
3 system, procedures, trial stuff. I had some knowledge on how  
4 state would operate. And I asked Mr. Domingo, you know, I was  
5 hoping that he could advocate certain things concerning my  
6 case. But he would put the guidelines in front of me and says  
7 that if we go through, there's four witnesses, you're at  
8 Category 6, you're at level 24, somebody like you going --  
9 challenging the government and losing, you're looking 15 to  
10 life. The life part is the thing that got me scared, you know.

11 And from how he -- he showed me on the guidelines, he  
12 said from here to here (indicating) is a stretch, like, you  
13 know, and it looked reasonable. So I -- you know, I thought  
14 that was the best advice that he was giving me, you know. But  
15 throughout me taking my GED and looking into my case, I felt as  
16 him being an attorney and he didn't do everything that he  
17 should have done.

18 Q So, Mr. Kaauwai, with respect to your discovery, did you  
19 go through it and find, I mean, inconsistencies that --  
20 throughout the report?

21 A Oh, there's a -- you know, now I study this day in and day  
22 out. There's a lot that's inconsistent with this discovery.

23 Q All right. What about did Mr. Domingo explain to you  
24 possible defenses or -- and if you could address that and then  
25 the fact that you say that he didn't even want to hear your



1 version of what happened?

2 A Well, because there was information that I had, that I had  
3 brought to the attention of the -- of Mr. Domingo that --  
4 regarding -- that I knew these things on the outside. And --  
5 and I explained to him and he said that will be our best way to  
6 go instead of taking it to trial because that will help you  
7 bring down your time. And it made it feel much -- you know, a  
8 little better saying okay, well, maybe that is, you know. So  
9 I -- we was talking about cooperating and debriefing.

10 Q Okay. Speaking of debriefing, Mr. Kaauwai, I showed you  
11 this morning for the first time, isn't it correct, some  
12 handwritten notes, which is Government's Exhibit 14 dated  
13 October 24th, 2003?

14 A Yes, you did.

15 Q And this morning was the first time you've seen it?

16 A Yes.

17 Q You heard the offer of proof as to what Agent Torco would  
18 testify to about some admissions that you allegedly made during  
19 this debriefing?

20 A Yes.

21 Q What is your recollection as to what happened or what the  
22 offer of proof was as far as, you know, your admissions about  
23 the gun?

24 A Like I asked you before the judge came in, I wanted you to  
25 ask Mr. Domingo because when I looked at that, yes, there was

1 things that was said regarding robbery, other things, using a  
2 firearm, but I -- I can't -- I didn't say a Beretta 380,  
3 shooting a round and using it to -- home invasions.

4 Q You didn't say it?

5 A No, I didn't say it.

6 Q Do you remember -- well, okay. Mr. Kaauwai, you told --  
7 would it be correct to say that you told all your attorneys --  
8 I'm your sixth attorney, right?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Your five prior attorneys, did you tell them that you  
11 wanted to withdraw your guilty plea, beginning with Mr.  
12 Domingo?

13 A Yes.

14 Q Did you tell Mr. Silvert that you wanted to withdraw your  
15 guilty plea?

16 A We didn't get to that with Mr. Silvert.

17 Q And why is that?

18 A As soon as he found out that Mr. Domingo was my attorney,  
19 he couldn't represent me he said.

20 Q What about Mr. Clayton -- I mean Mr. Choy, Glenn Choy?

21 A Yes.

22 Q You told him that you wanted to withdraw your plea?

23 A Yes.

24 Q How about Mr. Clayton Kimoto, did you tell him that you  
25 wanted to withdraw his plea -- that you wanted to withdraw your

1 plea?

2 A Yes.

3 Q Okay. Mr. Kaauwai, on April 12th, 2006, do you remember  
4 that you signed a -- you signed a statement which is attached  
5 as Government's Exhibit Number 7?

6 MS. TAMASHIRO: And may I approach, Your Honor?

7 THE COURT: Yes. Well, let's stop here for a minute.  
8 I have another -- I was -- go to the podium, Ms. Tamashiro.

9 I had a matter scheduled for 11:15 today because I was  
10 not made aware that we were going to be calling witnesses. I  
11 thought it was just simply an oral argument. And those lawyers  
12 are sitting here in the courtroom waiting. And I think it's  
13 grossly unfair to make them have to sit here while we continue  
14 examination --

15 MS. TAMASHIRO: All right.

16 THE COURT: -- and then run out of time. So I am  
17 going to continue this matter until this afternoon at  
18 3 o'clock.

19 MS. TAMASHIRO: Okay.

20 THE COURT: I imagine -- I was thinking about 2:30,  
21 but I think we'll do it at three. I don't think it's going to  
22 take us more than another hour at most. You're just about  
23 done?

24 MS. TAMASHIRO: I'm just about done.

25 THE COURT: Yeah. How much longer do you have,

1 direct?

2 MS. TAMASHIRO: 10 minutes, if that.

3 THE COURT: No, I don't want to make them wait any  
4 longer.

5 MS. TAMASHIRO: Well, and then Mr. -- I'm sure he has  
6 cross.

7 THE COURT: Well, I'm sure that Mr. Silverberg has  
8 20 minutes or so of cross, so... And that's why I think it's  
9 unfair. I've got Mr. Tong and Ms. Faymonville sitting here.  
10 So, we will resume at 3 o'clock this afternoon and we'll finish  
11 it up this afternoon at three.

12 MS. TAMASHIRO: All right. Thank you, Your Honor.

13 (A recess was taken from 11:24 a.m. to 3:05 p.m.)

14 THE COURT: All right. Can I have appearances again,  
15 please?

16 MR. SILVERBERG: Yes, Your Honor. Marshall Silverberg  
17 on behalf of the United States. With me is Special Agent Ty  
18 Torco.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 MS. TAMASHIRO: And good afternoon, Your Honor.  
21 Samuel Kaauwai, III, is present with counsel Pamela Tamashiro.

22 THE COURT: All right. You ready to proceed?

23 MS. TAMASHIRO: Your Honor, I believe at this time it  
24 is our intention to withdraw our Motion to Withdraw Guilty  
25 Plea.

1           Before we do that, Mr. Kaauwai would like to just  
2 address the court briefly.

3           THE COURT: About what?

4           MS. TAMASHIRO: I guess about all this that's going  
5 on.

6           THE COURT: Well, let me ask him first, is it your  
7 intention to withdraw your guilty plea?

8           THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor, it is.

9           THE COURT: Not your guilty plea, but your motion to  
10 withdraw your guilty plea?

11          THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

12          THE COURT: All right. So you understand that means  
13 that you will go forward to sentencing.

14          THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

15          THE COURT: And you will be convicted, you understand  
16 that?

17          THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

18          THE COURT: All right. Has anybody coerced you or  
19 intimidated you or threatened you in any way into making this  
20 decision?

21          THE DEFENDANT: No, Your Honor.

22          THE COURT: Okay. Have you -- do you feel like you  
23 have received adequate advice and representation from your  
24 lawyer?

25          THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: All right. Now, you want to say  
2 something?

3 THE DEFENDANT: Yes.

4 THE COURT: You may do so.

5 THE DEFENDANT: I take full responsibility of my  
6 action and the charge against me. I'm willing to accept the  
7 consequences of my charges. I wish not to waste any more of  
8 the court's time; you, Your Honor, prosecutor Marshall  
9 Silverberg, ATF agent, and my attorney, Pamela Tamashiro. I'm  
10 doing this on my own free will and taking action of acceptance.

11 THE COURT: All right. All right. The court will  
12 deem the motion to be withdrawn.

13 Can we get a sentencing date, please?

14 MR. SILVERBERG: Your Honor, obviously we have no  
15 objection, but we would ask that it be done with prejudice  
16 given the history of the case, given the defendant's propensity  
17 of having new lawyers. I'm afraid he's going to a week from  
18 now change his mind, ask for a new lawyer and try and reinstate  
19 the whole matter.

20 THE COURT: Mr. Silverberg, I don't know that I have  
21 authority to do it with prejudice to be honest with you.

22 MR. SILVERBERG: I don't know why not. But I'll defer  
23 to the court.

24 THE COURT: Well --

25 MR. SILVERBERG: Well --

1 THE COURT: This is not a civil case. Why not? We're  
2 in the Ninth Circuit that's why not.

3 MR. SILVERBERG: I would assume that was within the  
4 court's discretion. I mean given the fact we took testimony in  
5 the case, the government didn't have a chance to cross-examine  
6 the defendant. Obviously we don't object to him withdrawing  
7 the motion, but I think there's got to be some finality to this  
8 thing.

9 THE COURT: Well, if he attempts to refile his motion,  
10 the court will rule on it in a very timely fashion I can assure  
11 you.

12 All right. Can we have a sentencing date, please?

13 THE CLERK: May 30th, 2007, at 9:45 a.m.

14 MS. TAMASHIRO: That's fine.

15 MR. SILVERBERG: That's fine.

16 THE COURT: Is it all right? Okay.

17 THE DEFENDANT: Thank you, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: All right. Thank you very much.

19 MS. TAMASHIRO: Thank you, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: We stand in recess.

21 (The proceedings concluded at 3:08 p.m., May 2, 2007.)  
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COURT REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

I, CYNTHIA FAZIO, Official Court Reporter, United States District Court, District of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages numbered 1 through 39 is a correct transcript of the proceedings had in connection with the above-entitled matter.

DATED at Honolulu, Hawaii, May 15, 2007.



/s/ Cynthia Fazio  
CYNTHIA FAZIO, RMR, CRR